



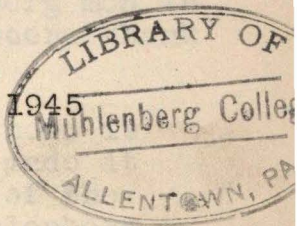
VICTORY

FLASHES

from **MUHLENBERG**

Number 64

June 29, 1945



Dear Fellows:

There's so much to tell you this trip that it's hard to know just where to begin. Big things have been happening around Muhlenberg and it looks as though the old place would continue to hum along at a merry pace for a long time to come.

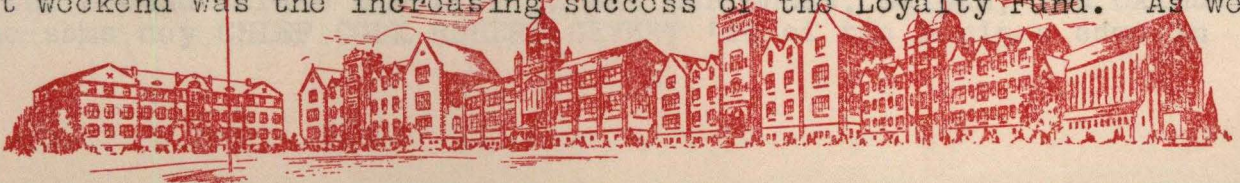
Biggest news is that the V-12 unit has been withdrawn from the campus to make way for a new and larger Navy training program that will be assigned to Muhlenberg for at least a year. Under the V-12 program we were to have approximately 150 Bluejackets for the 16-week term beginning July 1--and that was scheduled to be the last term for V-12 at Muhlenberg and at all colleges cooperating with that training program. Then, just a week before commencement, came the news that Muhlenberg had been selected for another Navy program that would bring between 350 and 400 men to the campus and keep a unit of that size aboard for at least a year. At the moment we can't say just what the program will be, but we can tell you that Muhlenberg was selected because the Navy once again recognized its qualifications for doing a difficult job and for doing it well. The new unit will come aboard on July 26 and will be supplemented from time-to-time as the program moves along.

But before the V-12 program closed, at the commencement last Sunday, Rear Admiral William Morrow Fechteler, veteran Pacific attack force commander now assistant chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, brought the Navy's coveted compliment "Well done!" to the College, its Faculty and its staff. In his address at commencement he expressed the appreciation of the Navy for the kind of job your college did in training prospective officers for the Navy, the Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard.

Commencement last Sunday marked the close of Muhlenberg's 77th academic year. Degrees were conferred on 10 men who completed all their college requirements and who were members of the third class to be graduated this year. Certificates were awarded to 180 Bluejackets whose work on the campus was successfully completed and who moved on to new training stations and bases. At commencement the Alumni of the College placed a beautiful wreath on the chapel altar in memory of the 22 Muhlenberg men who have died in the service of their country. Those men, and all of you fellows in service, also were honored at the meeting of the Alumni Association the Friday night before commencement.

The Alumni, at their brief business meeting, elected Walter L. Reisner of Philadelphia, spark-plug of the Class of 1915 as president of the general body for the next three years. His objectives include a real Victory Reunion when the war has been finally won and you fellows come home once again. Other officers named include Dr. Joseph Hummel, Allentown, vice-president; Donald P. Miller, Allentown, second vice-president; Rev. Richard Beck, Bowmanstown, secretary; and Dr. John V. Shankweiler, Allentown, controller. We'll tell you more about the meeting and the events of the commencement weekend in the July-August issue of the Alumni Magazine.

One of the big things we were able to announce over the commencement weekend was the increasing success of the Loyalty Fund. As we



write this letter we can account for \$9,291 from 1314 Alumni and we really are hitting hard for the \$10,000 mark. The auditors will give us a few days after July 1 to close our books and by the time the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association meets on July 20 we hope to be able to turn over that \$10,000 to the College for the important job we Alumni want to help Muhlenberg do. Of the total amount raised to date, slightly more than \$3,200 has come from 460 Muhlenberg men in the armed forces--for which we again say a very warm and sincere thank you.

You follows oftentimes ask for news of the Faculty. Well, here is some we had to wait to tell you until the Board of Trustees made it official at their meeting last week. Three veteran members of the Faculty, with a combined total of 86 years of service to Muhlenberg, retired at the end of the current academic year on June 30 and became professors emeriti. They include Dr. Robert R. Fritsch, Professor of English Bible and a member of the Faculty for 38 years; Dr. Isaac Miles Wright, head of the Department of Education for 28 years; and Dr. Harry Hess Reichard, professor of German for 20 years. By creating a special title, "Professor Emeritus on Special Assignment", the Board made it possible for the three men to continue to serve the College in many special ways even after they have been placed on the College's pension lists. It has been indicated that both Dr. Wright and Dr. Reichard will teach a few classes this summer.

Incidentally, even though the new Navy unit does not come in until July 26, the new college term will begin July 9 with a full schedule of classes for civilian students. It looks as though the student body will include more returned service men than ever before and we can assure you and the rest of the boys, through you, that Muhlenberg is ready to meet your needs and has a real program for you.

Well, the big parade of Muhlenberg's fighting men is on. There hasn't been a day for a good many weeks now that hasn't brought at least one or two men back to the campus. Just a minute ago LT. AL SENSENBACH '42 dropped in, still pretty fresh from German prison camps. Al was captured on Sept. 21, 1944 when the American forces first approached the Siegfried line and was a prisoner until General Patton and his Third Army came along on April 29. He has been overseas two years and expects to ship out sometime after his 65 days of leave in the States are over. We read in the papers that LT. JOHN R. KERN '42, another of the boys who was a prisoner, is home.

Yesterday we saw T/SGT. CHARLIE STOPP '30, just back from a two-year tour with the Eighth Army Air Force in England, and PFC. FREDERICK STAEBLE '47, whose battles stars designate action in the Ruhr pocket and in the Battle of Bavaria. He was overseas for five months before returning to the States the middle of June. Stopp, who also expects more overseas duty, was a photo-interpreter with the Air Force, duties that for the most part kept him in England.

Over the commencement weekend we saw CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER KARL REINHARD, just back from 39 months of service in the Pacific. After 18 months in Australia, 18 in New Guinea, and three in the Philippines, Karl came back to marry Janet Correll, an instructor at the Jefferson Hospital's School of Nursing. LT. CLAUDE DIEROLF '43, fresh from 19 missions over Germany and Czechoslovakia as navigator of a B-17 Fortress, came back too. Before hitting Allentown, he and WARREN NAFIS '43 had a little chance reunion in Philadelphia with DONALD KLOTZ '44 and BOB BRENNAN '43, still in the Navy and still at Temple Medical school; with Jim Keiter '43 and Lee Miller '43 at Penn Medical school; and with ED PFEIFER '43, who is fighting the Battle of Germantown at Mount Airy. Claude told us then that on June 28 somebody would announce his engagement to Shirley Hirst. She was to get the ring on the same day she received her master's degree in education from the University of Pennsylvania.

And we go on and on with the visitors. Others have included LT. JAMES A. ROGERS '36 of the Navy Medical Corps, home after 20 months with the Second Marine Division in the Mariannas, Saipan, and Okinawa. On the same day CHIEF COOK ROBERT GEVERT '44 of the Marines came in

just before reporting to the Philadelphia Navy Yard for duty a bit more quiet than he has had. He was overseas 27½ months and has New Zealand, Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Guam, and Iwo Jima written into his log. He too came back to marry. Mrs. Gevert is the former Miriam Heydt.

Then we had a very pleasant little visit with BILL VANNESS '42 who was at sea for 21 months on his LST and whose battle stars represent Tarawa, the Marshalls, Hollandia, Saipan, and Guam, Peilieu, and Lingayen Gulf. It's great to see all those fellows--and more--strolling across the campus once again and we're looking for more. Oh yes, we almost forgot about one of the men from overseas, CHAPLAIN H. EDGAR KNIES, one of the gold oak leaf majors of the Class of 1925, just back from England. We saw him briefly at the alumni meeting the other night and we're still waiting for a real chance to talk to him and hear his story.

But it's high time to get that mail bag out and begin the report from overseas:

LUTHER NEUBAUER '35, who says he's on his way to becoming a civilian again, writes from France to get on the record as one of those who applauds the decision of the Ministerium to make Muhlenberg co-educational. From the same country, T/3 JIM FEEMAN '45 reports that his outfit got overseas just in time to see the final events on the European front. LT. ARLAN BOND '42 (long time no see) is back in France where he met CAPT. JIMMY BROWN '41 and T/5 KENNY WALKER '42. Arlan's outfit has its headquarters in a very large modern hotel in Phinville where Class A uniforms are required at the Officers' Mess. He hopes to be home in time for the first football game.

The official end of the war came as an anti-climax, according to CPL. CHARLIE KRAUSS '41 whose report comes from Germany. Charlie went overseas in January 1944. SGT. BUD BOSSICK '43, whose letter also comes from Germany, is the assistant athletic director of his battalion but he reports it is tough trying to get men interested in sports. Bud was in the Normandy campaign, the Northern France campaign, and the German drive. For CAPT. HAMILTON CROWELL '28 the war ended at Hitler's Berchtesgaden retreat and his victory celebration was stocked from Adolf's own cellar. Crowell will come home with four battle stars, the Croix de Guerre and the Silver Star--but he still hasn't told us the stories about them. LT. FRANK PECKACHEK '42, one of the boys who was wounded, has been discharged from the hospital and returned to his old unit in Germany. SGT. CLEVE KENNEDY '43 reports that he has 82 points to his credit after tearing through France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany with the famed Timberwolves--the 104th Infantry. His letter came from Halle--the German city the Muhlenbergs helped make famous a couple of centuries ago.

From England comes word that SGT. FREDERICK JOHNSON '44, Flying Fortress tail gunner you have been hearing about lately, received his third oak leaf cluster for his Air Medal and has 28 missions over Germany to his credit. PFC. ARTHUR SNYDER '47 also checks in from England with the word that he is stationed in a hospital after helping to operate a hospital train. T/SGT. RALPH KIEFFER '29, who flew with the 529th Bomb Squadron, is back in England once again. Before he returned, however, he had the chance to see some of the cities he helped ruin--Aachen, Munster, Cologne and a few others. Visiting a cemetery in Cambridge he came across the grave of SGT. CARL CLAYTON '34 and that was the first indication he had that Carl was one of the 22 Muhlenberg men who died in service. In those letters from France we missed the one from SGT. CARL RITTER '30, who by this time feels almost like a native of Paris. He definitely liked TIPPY JOHNSON's '31 description of the 40 or 8 box cars they are still using over there. It took Carl three days and four nights to travel about 10 miles to Paris in the first troop train to enter there. The trains, he says just to disagree with Johnson, are as rough as the Dorney Park roller coaster, but not as fast.

Larry Nowak '48--it seems like just a few months ago that he was burning our hamburgers down in the College store--hiked and fought and trekked across Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Austria and dropped

us a line from Czechoslovakia to tell us about it. We also had a letter from SGT. KENNY MOYER '34, who is somewhere in the European theatre. CHAPLAIN JOHN H.K. MILLER '32 is still sweating it out, presumably in Italy, hearing lots of rumors but not knowing what will be next. He's using some of his spare time to tell some returning GI's about a place by the name of Muhlenberg and what it has to offer them.

And now we go right across the world to India where SGT. HAROLD HELFRICH '44 is still holding forth and where he expects to be for some time to come. He's debating the co-education proposition in his own mind and from his letter we don't think he has definitely decided whether or not he likes the idea. Most of the fellows seem to like it, Harold, but it may be a little while longer than 1948 in coming. The Board of Trustees just named a committee, at the request of the Synod, to ascertain the costs of the program.

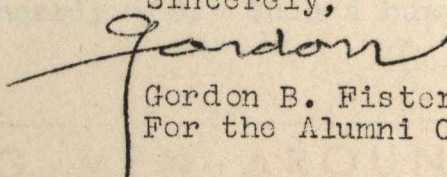
We caught up, at long last, with LT. FRANCIS TOMAINO '36 who enlisted in the Navy in August 1940 and earned the rate of pharmacist, first class. In June 1942 he was commissioned as a lieutenant, junior grade, and assigned to Armed Guard duty. Now, for the past 19 months, he has been in the Pacific and when he wrote was in the Philippines. LT. GEORGE HAWKINS '42, who made some 16 round trips across the Atlantic on his Destroyer Escort, expects to see the Pacific before too many more months go by. He suggests that when the Victory Reunion finally takes place, the uniform of the day should include high-top boots. ENSIGN FRANK MILNES '44 wrote from the Pacific to tell us that on July 1, 1944 his engagement to Winnie Jones of Summit Hill was announced.

Out in the Pacific ENSIGN DONALD LEHRKINDER, one of the V-12 boys who came to us from a place called Gettysburg (ever hear of it before), has been meeting a lot of the boys, among them ENSIGN BOB HOCHELLA, ENSIGN RAY ZANEY, ENSIGN JOHN MCKINNEY, ENSIGN RED RUS, AND ENSIGN WAYNE KECK. And just to make the thing complete, LT. ALBERT BILLY '29 is the chaplain on Lehrkinder's ship. CHAPLAIN TOMMY RICHTER '38, also a Navy lieutenant, was at Iwo Jima and helped bring the Marines back after the island had been secured. While the Marines were aboard, the ship crossed the International Date Line with the result that they observed Easter twice. If any of you fellows ever thought WILMER CRESSMAN '42 (pardon us, we mean LIEUTENANT WILMER) lacked ambition, try to picture him climbing to the top of the highest mountain at Noumea, New Caledonia. We'll let him tell you all about it when he comes back home. It's a long story. After taking part in the landing on Okinawa LT. PAUL ARNER '43 invaded the western coast of North America and had a 30-day leave there before rejoining his ship.

Well here goes with the promotions that are still being earned by Muhlenberg men: S1/c LEO R. GRANT '46; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ARTHUR SNYDER '47; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS LARRY NOWAK '48; LIEUTENANT THOMAS J. RICHTER '38; SECOND LIEUTENANT JAMES D. ALLEN '44; SERGEANT FRANKLIN PASCOM '34; CHIEF SPECIALIST MILTON CRUDEN '28; LIEUTENANT ROBERT HARNED '28; SECOND LIEUTENANT RICHARD HOFFMAN '28; SERGEANT JOHN MURRAY '40; F1/c ALEXANDER PETERSEN '44; CAPTAIN LESTER T. SMITH '34; S.C. 2/c PAUL STEINBERG '45; LIEUTENANT DALE POSEY '37; CORPORAL ALFRED E. PIERCE '42; LIEUTENANT BERT LEVINSTONE '42; SERGEANT KENNETH MOYER '34; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS KENNETH DOLLINGER '46; ENSIGN DOUGLAS PERSICH '44; LIEUTENANT WILLIAM C. ROBERTS '45; STOREKEEPER 2/c HARLAND G. LELAND '45; LIEUTENANT JOHN H. WAGNER '31 SECOND LIEUTENANT CHARLES E. RILEY '44; COXSWAIN WOODROW GUTH '41; LIEUTENANT (jg) JOHN PSIAKI '43; ENSIGN THOMAS H. WALLACE '44; SERGEANT SEYMOUR BEST '44; LIEUTENANT HAROLD REASER '45; LIEUTENANT PETER COSIER '44; and Rdm3/c PHILIP NONNEMAKER.

This time we got back to our regular four-page schedule and there is still a lot left over to tell you in two weeks. Just remember to tell us about all those address changes so that, in these days of moves and shifts from Europe to the States and to the Pacific, we'll be able to get the mail to you promptly. Lots of luck to all of you--and here's hoping the march back home will be accelerated.

Sincerely,



Gordon B. Fister
For the Alumni Office